

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5236

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA (SIMON, SECRETARY WILLIAM)

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S TRIP TO INDIA

REF NEW DELHI 3923; (REPEAT OF STATE 63779)

1. PRELIMINARY OUTLINE BOMBAY PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOW:

SECRETARY SIMON AND MEMBERS HIS PARTY WILL BE MET AT PLANESIDE ON ARRIVAL 1440 HOURS FRIDAY, APRIL 18, BY CG, CERTAIN MEMBERS HIS STAFF, AND PRES INDO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IACC) HARISH MAHINDRA. SECRETARY AND MEMBERS HIS PARTY WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY IN VEHICLES PARKED ALONGSIDE TAXIWAY FOR HOTEL TAJ MAHAL INTERCONTINENTAL ARRIVING THERE BETWEEN 1520 AND 1530 HOURS. CG WILL ACCOMPANY SECRETARY.

2. SECRETARY AND MOST MEMBERS HIS PARTY WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN OLD TAJ PORTION TAJ MAHAL HOTEL AND BALANCE IN INTERCONTINENTAL PORTION. SECRETARY WILL LIKELY BE IN EITHER PRESIDENTIAL SUITE OR RAJPUT SUITE AND OTHER ROOM DESIGNATIONS WILL BE MADE FOLLOWING RECEIPT LISTING OF MEMBERS OF PARTY IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE. AS IN CASE DEPUTY SECRETARY GARDNER'S VISIT, IT UNLIKELY WE WILL BE ABLE PIN DOWN PRECISE ROOM ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR ARRIVAL PARTY DELHI. WE SHALL TRY HAVE THEM IN SUFFICIENT TIME PRIOR DEPARTURE DELHI TO PERMIT BAGS BE LABELLED ACCORDINGLY. WE CAN, HOWEVER, HANDLE ANY LAST MINUTE SWITCHES IN ROOMS AT THE TIME. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALL BAGS CARRY NAME TAGS

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IF POSSIBLE TO FURTHER FACILITATE.

3. REMAINDER AFTERNOON APRIL 18 FREE.

4. DINNER-SPEECH ARRANGEMENTS:

BASED ON LONG SESSION WITH MAHINDRA THIS MORNING 25TH, FOLLOWING PROPOSED FOR SECRETARY'S CONCURRENCE: DINNER WOULD BE HOSTED BY IACC AND WILL LIKELY BE HELD CRYSTAL BALL ROOM, OLD TAJ (THE BEST IN BOMBAY). GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US, ALI JAVAR JUNG, WOULD BE ASKED BY IACC TO PRESIDE OVER OCCASION. IN ADDITION, KEY STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, IACC WILL INVITE KEY MEMBERS BOMBAY'S BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY WITH A LIKELY ATTENDANCE OF BETWEEN 400 AND 500. GUESTS WOULD BE INVITED FOR 1930 HOURS FOR COCKTAILS AND DINNER AT 2030 HOURS. THERE WOULD BE A RECEIVING LINE IN WHICH MAHINDRA WOULD PRESENT GUESTS TO SECRETARY. PRINCIPAL GUESTS AT HEAD TABLE WOULD BE SERVED DINNER AT 2030 HOURS WHILE OTHERS WOULD SERVE SELVES AT BUFFETS AND SIT AT TABLES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT FORMAL PART OF EVENING WOULD BEGIN ABOUT 2115 HOURS. MAHINDRA AS IACC PRES WOULD WELCOME SECRETARY AND GOVERNOR LIKELY SAY FEW WORDS AS WELL AT THIS TIME. TRADITIONAL FLOWER GARLANDS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO SECRETARY AND IACC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAY LIKELY DECIDE PRESENT GIFT TO SECRETARY AS WELL. WILL ADVISE WHEN AND IF THIS PLANNED AND ASAP. SECRETARY WOULD THEN GIVE ADDRESS. THERE WOULD ALSO BE THE TRADITIONAL VOTE OF THANKS AFTER SECRETARY'S SPEECH. FUNCTION WOULD BE OVER BY 2300 HOURS DEPENDING ON LENGTH ADDRESS. IN OUR VIEW, THIS LIKELY BE PRESTIGIOUS TURNOUT. MAHINDRA PROCEEDING NOTIFY IACC COUNCIL TODAY 25TH AND WORK ON GUEST LIST AND INVITATIONS BEING INITIATED. APPRECIATE KNOWING SOONEST IF FOREGOING AGREEABLE SECRETARY.

5. SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 19 FREE AS MATTERS PRESENTLY STAND. PRINCIPAL POINT OF SIGHTSEEING INTEREST ARE ROCK CAVE TEMPLES ON ELEPHANTA ISLAND IN BOMBAY HARBOR. ROUND-TRIP REQUIRES ABOUT THREE HOURS SO THAT TO VISIT SECRETARY OR THOSE MEMBERS PARTY DESIRING VISIT WOULD NEED LEAVE GATEWAY OF INDIA (IN FRONT TAJ HOTEL) AT 0800 HOURS RETURNING AT 1100 HOURS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL LAUNCHES CAN BE MADE IF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION GIVEN US. OTHERWISE MORNING FREE FOR VISIT MUSEUM, GALLERIES, SHOPS (ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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WITHIN FEW MINUTES TAJ). MEMBERS CONSULATE STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE ASSIST.

6. WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALL LUGGAGE BE SENT TO INTERCONTINENTAL LOBBY BY 1130 HOURS APRIL 19 AND THAT SECRETARY AND MEMBERS HIS PARTY PLAN DEPART HOTEL AT ABOUT 1200 HOURS FOR TAKEOFF 1300 HOURS FOR MADRAS.

7. WE ENDEAVORING ACCOMMODATE CREW AT SUN-N-SAND HOTEL WHICH ON JUHU BEACH AND NEAR AIRPORT (HOPE TO CONFIRM MARCH 26TH). WE HAVE ASKED FOR 10 DOUBLES AND ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION (PLEASE CONFIRM IF THIS WILL SUFFICE). AIR INDIA HANDLE SERVICING AIRCRAFT. SECURITY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS STIPULATED FOR AIRCRAFT BEING WORKED OUT.

8. VEHICLES REQUESTED FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION FOR SECRETARY AND PARTY AND CREW HAVE BEEN BOOKED AS WELL AS FOR BAGGAGE.

9. EMBASSY NEW DELHI COMMENTING SEPARATELY ON SUBJECT CLASSIFIED TRANSPORT.

10. WE ARE ARRANGING FOR BOTH VISITOR'S CONTROL ROOM AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL ROOMS TO BE LOCATED OLD TAJ.

11. WHILE WE SHALL HAVE PACKAGING AND WRAPPING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL PURCHASES, WE WOULD ASK THAT ALL BEVERAGES, CIGARETTES AND SUNDRY ITEMS BE OBTAINED DELHI FOR BOMBAY PORTION TRIP, SINCE POST DOES NOT HAVE A COMMISSARY FACILITY OR READY ACCESS TO SUCH ITEMS LOCALLY. VARIOUS SUNDRIES CAN BE OBTAINED, OF COURSE, IN THE MANY SHOPS IN THE TAJ.

12. USIS WILL PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE DINNER-SPEECH EVENT.

13. FOR MR SHAPIRO: MR O'LEARY, ACTING POST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, ASSIGNED AS CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT.
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